

RAN Radio Mechanics Association

In 1991 I was reminiscing with a couple of old shipmates, about our service life 45 years previously, and it occurred to me that as we were ageing and the numbers were thinning, someone should record a history of our immediate post WW2 activities for posterity. In the process of gathering information to create this history, many with whom I spoke expressed a desire for a reunion. This in fact happened in 1992 in Adelaide, where we had done our initial 6 months basic technical training. That reunion was so successful, that attendees decided to form an association. We have since had biennial reunions in Sydney 1994, Canberra 1996, Melbourne 1998, Nowra 2000, and Perth 2002. Our 2004 reunion is scheduled for October at Caloundra. Typical attendance numbers have been around 130 with a split of about 55% members and the balance spouses.

The initial association membership comprised only those graduates from the Adelaide School of Mines (later University of South Australia), in the years 1946 est became sufficiently strong to attract WW2 Royal Melbourne Technical College (later RMIT) graduates 1942 and subsequent HMAS Cerberus graduates 1949 onwards.

As at July 2004, membership numbers hover around 550, mostly in the mainland states, and a few in New Zealand, UK and the USA.

Today, the WW2 numbers are down from an initial (as best we can ascertain) 350 RMIT graduates to 84 survivors. The youngest of these latter is now 79 and the oldest 93. It is this group of 350 that is my focus of compiling a new written history, which I have scheduled for completion by mid 2005. I have much historical material, but almost weekly I come across new data.

Our association has a national committee, based in Adelaide, of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor, with myself as VP in Sydney. Each of the mainland states has a local convenor keeping personal contact with those living close by. We have a newsletter published quarterly. We have no membership fees, and financially we rely on unsolicited donations from members.

The foregoing compiled by George Stevens VP RAN Radio Mechanics Association, July 2004.